REMARKS

Claims 2, 17, and 38 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 15, 18, 37 and 39 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 15, 18-20, 37, and 39-41 are pending.

Claims 1, 15, and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 15 and 37 have been amended to use specific language from paragraph 0028 in the above-captioned application. As such, claims 1, 15 and 37 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 1, 15 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes, U.S. Patent No. 6,122,372, in view of Yeager, U.S. Patent No. 6,167,402. Neither Hughes nor Yeager teach "computing a message tag from a subset of the plurality of message properties at least in part by concatenating a message sender and a message submission time and applying a hash algorithm to the resulting string" as recited in the amended claims 1, 15 and 37. Support for the amendment may be found without limitation on paragraph 0028 in the above-captioned application. As such, claims 1, 15 and 37 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 3, 4 and 7, which depend from claim 1; claims 18-20, which depend from claim 15; and claims 39-41, which depend from claim 37 are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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